School of Canadian Irish Studies

Concordia University
Arts and Science

School of Canadian Irish Studies

PRESENTS

in collaboration with the

Department of English, Université de Montréal

Dr. Jason King

"Remembering Famine Orphans: The Transmission of Famine Memory between Ireland and Quebec"

Free admission

Wednesday, June 9

7:00 pm

Concordia University

1455 de Maisonneuve West,

Hall Building, Room H-1220

This talk will examine Robert Sellar's *The Summer of Sorrow* and one of his most important sources, the testimonial of the Rev. Bernard O'Reilly. The Irish-born priest of Sherbrooke parish served on Grosse Île in July, 1847, and then presided over a mass-adoption of Famine orphans into French-Canadian families. Sellar relied on O'Reilly's testimony yet remained unaware that, shortly after his return from Grosse Île, O'Reilly founded an organization to promote French-Canadian and Irish Catholic colonization of the Eastern Townships in order to help safeguard the faith of his parishioners.

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